Accident prone stretches of National Highways

2102. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the specific stretches of the National highways in the Country particularly in Andhra Pradesh which are accident prone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have or proposed to have a permanent fleet of ambulances and cranes to help the accident victims on National Highways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Identification of stretches prone to road accidents is a continuing process. One such site at Km. 154 of NH 4 near Chittoor has been identified in Andhra Pradesh. Remedial action is being taken to improve the geometrics at this site.

(c) and (d) Under scheme of National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme, Government of India provides cranes and ambulances to NGOs/State Governments.

Moradabad By-Pass Project

2103. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has successfully completed the first phase of the 18 km. Moradabad by-pass project located on NH-24 through the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) mechanism;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NHAI proposes to create more SPVs, specially created companies with a view to have new financing route for executing the ambitious Rs. 60,000 crore National Highways Development Project; and

(c) if so, the details of the other Highway Projects proposed to be executed through this SPV mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) One project relating to Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway is already under implementation through the Special Purpose Vehicle. Other projects which are proposed to be taken up relate to development of road connectivity to major ports in the country.

Second phase of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Express Way

2104. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) has awarded the second phase of the Ahmedabad-Vadodara Express way to a joint venture of LG Engineering and Construction Corporation and Nagarpura Construction Corporation (NCC) despite allegations of procedural violations and an on-going vigilance inquiry into it;

(b) whether the Chief Vigilance Officer, who is inquiring into the charges of cartelization and manipulation, had, in a letter dated 9th April, 2001, asked the Secretary concerned to held back the signing of this contract until the investigation was completed; and

(c) if so, Government's views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) A Complaint regarding awarding of contract for the second phase of the Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway was received. This was looked into by the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) who raised a few issues. The issues raised by the CVO were looked into by a Committee headed by the CVO himself and two other senior officers of the NHAI. Detailed examination by the Committee did not reveal any wrong doing. The contract was awarded to M/s. LG-NCC (JV).